The building is to stand on the west side of Trinity-house-lane, and is to cost four to five thousand pounds.——The cases of the arches of St. Mary's chapel ruins, at Doncaster, have been laid bare, and the ruins have thus, it is said, been made to present a very beautiful appearance. The order for their final demolition, however, has been given, and notwithstanding all that has been said and done, no one has had the taste or spirit to remove even a portion of the remains for preservation.——The new church of Holy Trinity, built by subscription at Walton Breck, was to be opened, according to the *Liverpool Mail*, on the 4th instant.——The new port of Birkenhead was opened on Easter Monday. The shipping accommodation which the two docks will afford will be equal to that of the Prince's Dock at Liverpool. Near these docks are the extensive warehouses of the Birkenhead Dock Company, twelve of which, each capable of holding 4,000 bales of cotton, are already completed; forming a substantial mass of mercantile buildings, constructed by Messrs. Hilton and Morris.——The subscription for the erection of an Athenæum at Bolton now amounts to nearly 5,000*l.*; and a general meeting has been held to take the necessary steps for proceeding with the building.——A project is entertained, says the *Bradford Observer*, of erecting a school and school-house in the populous village of Queenshead. About 600*l.* are wanted for this purpose, and a bazaar was to be held at Halifax, on the 9th instant, in aid of the project.——A piece of ground, called "the five-acre field," for a new burial-ground to Huddersfield, has been presented by the guardians of Sir I. W. Ramsden; and the mother of this youth has even most liberally offered to build a church on the site.——The Leeds new gaol is now receiving its last coat of paint, and on two days of last week it was visited by 2,463 persons. It is said to be an "imposing" edifice, "second to none of its class" in the empire.——The mason's strike, at Sunderland, terminated on Monday week before last, in consequence of the whole of the masters having acceded to the full demands of the journeymen, namely, twenty-seven shillings a week wages, and to be allowed to leave work at four o'clock on Saturday afternoons, instead of five o'clock, the hour from almost time immemorial.

THE GAS MOVEMENT.

NOVEL PROJECT.

On Tuesday week before last, a special meeting of the Liverpool council was held, for the purpose of considering the merits of the two local gas bills now before parliament. Sixteen petitions were presented from the different wards in favour of the Guardian Gas Company's bill. On a motion that the report of the Lighting and Health Committee be adopted, and an amendment, in all respects to the contrary effect, a discussion followed, during which Mr. Bennett stated, on the part of the Lighting and Health committee, that it was because the committee were "rather dissatisfied" with the report and estimates of Mr. Cox, the engineer to the Guardian Company, and "did not believe it possible" for that company to make good gas and sell it at the proposed price, namely, 3s. 8d., that they were "in a great measure induced to come to their present determination," to recommend the council to bind themselves to oppose the Guardian bill, and to persuade the two present companies to amalgamate; the latter a measure no less certain, as was remarked, to encourage and establish monopoly than the former was to suppress the only popular and promising prospect of cheap gas, and to crush the very parties to whom the community was already admittedly indebted for the successive reductions already made by the two old companies in the price of their gas, from 7s. down to 4s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet. Mr. Parker could see no right reason why the council should "fight the battles" of the two old companies; and Mr. Aiken, while he believed that the people of Liverpool at large were in favour of the new company, thought the time was come for the corporation to purchase the works of both the old companies, and to supply the town themselves with gas, as they proposed to do with water. A memorial to this effect was also presented from the "House-owners' Guardian Association," and the noble precedent at Manchester was appealed to.

Mr. Rathbone, in order to show that the price of gas could be reduced (below 4s. 6d., or down to Mr. Cox's estimate, 3s. 8d.), "produced a parliamentary document, from which it appeared that a population of 40,000 was supplied with gas at 3s. 2½d. per 1,000 cubic feet," coals, in the locality alluded to, being 10s. per ton. Mr. Danson pointed attention to the fact, that the Guardian Company, by compelling the old establishments to reduce their prices from 7s. to 4s. 6d., had been the means of effecting a saving of no less than £36,000 per annum to the inhabitants! And he might have also pointed attention to the consequent fact, that these two establishments must have therefore been previously in the habit of coolly pocketing this very 36,000*l.* per annum themselves, over and above all their present more than sufficient profits!! He further observed that the saving thus effected by the Guardian Company, in the mere expense of lighting the street lamps, would enable the town to set up no less than 500 additional lamps,—an accommodation much wanted, he said, in the lower neighbourhoods of the town.

The notice by the new Leeds Gas Company of their intention to reduce the price of their gas from 6s. to 5s. is said to have been either followed or accompanied by a notice of the old company to the same effect.—A general and hopeful reason, which might now with equal force be urged in almost all quarters, in favour of the reduction and equalization of the price of gas, is said to have been lately advanced by the Gas Company itself of Salisbury, in explanation of their intention to carry out a reduction of 2s. per 1,000 cubic feet,—namely, that "since the opening of the railway, coal can be purchased 20 per cent lower than formerly." The inhabitants of Winchester are beginning to open their eyes to the fact that "a comparison of the prices charged at Winchester and Southampton presents a difference in favour of the latter for cheapness that the prices of the raw material at the two towns does not account for; and the only conclusion we can come to is, either that the Southampton Gas Company are getting too little, or that the Winchester company are getting too much."— The price of the article at Winchester, twelve miles only from Southampton, is 100 per cent. higher, although the price of coals at Winchester is only 13 per cent. higher than it is at Southampton, the *reason* or *necessity* of which, even with the assistance of *Coke*, must form a very difficult proposition for the Winchester Company to solve.

A project, similar to one some time since spoken of in The Builder, but originally started about a quarter of a century ago, when Sir H. Davy, Professor Brande, and others, took an interest in its realization, has been recently revived, viz., a "Joint Stock Company, to be called The Silurian Chemical Works, and to be established at Newport and Cardiff, a branch at each place, with the object and intention of purchasing and working up refuse and other small coal, to the extent of 2,000 tons per day, or 600,000 tons per annum, into coke, tar, ammoniacal preparations and gas; and for conveying the latter product, in a perfectly purified state, from Cardiff to London, on a route *viâ* Gloucester, &c.; and also, for enabling the directors of the Great Western, and other railway companies, to effectually, and yet economically, light the whole of their roads and branches with gas—so as to prevent, as far as possible, all accidents which may arise from want of light in the dark and dreary seasons of winter. The capital of the proposed company to be one million sterling, in transferable shares of 40*l.* or 50*l.* each, with half-yearly dividends; and the whole concern to be managed by a board of direction, to be appointed in the manner usual with joint-stock companies, and to be held alternately at Newport and Cardiff."

Since the above was written, a still more remarkable project has been announced, viz., that of the "Cardinal and Central Gaslight, Ventilation, Animal Charcoal, and Carbonaceous Manure Company," provisionally registered, in 75,000 10*l.* shares, and based on Radley's patent for making gas from bones and animal matters hitherto unproductive for purposes of general illumination. Gas, it is declared, of quality superior to any ever made in the metropolis, can thus be produced in immense quantities at a cost of less than 4d. per 1,000 cubic feet! If there is no mistake about this announcement, here we have the prospect of a speedy realization of some of those "financial wonders" in the future history of gas which we ventured lately to anticipate. Doubtless the value of the products will immensely reduce the cost.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

Sir,—In your paper of the 20th inst., is a notice of the recent alterations in Durham Abbey, from the *Athenæum*, from which any stranger would infer that some real improvements are going on. Some of the alterations, such as the new pulpit, the font, the restoration of the altar-screen, and the removal of the classical screens, are indeed good, though it may be matter for grave consideration whether it was wise to remove the old screen before the nature of a new one was fixed on. But the following brief statement of facts may place the other alterations in a different light.

As to the galilee. When the galilee was formed by Bishop Pudsey, the west entrance to the cathedral became useless, so Cardinal Langley, when altering this part, placed his tomb and altar in the doorway arch, and blocked it up with a florid reredos-screen, which was curiously painted and gilt. It remained until last year, and was very interesting to antiquaries, as being the last remnant of the many wooden screens formerly in the building, and formed a fitting accompaniment to Langley's tomb. The galilee had a charming effect of seclusion and quiet, which was utterly destroyed when the screen was taken down and concealed in some out of the way corner. Since then, the arch has been fitted up with doors fronting the nave (in a part of the arch where doors could never be), but cannot be used as an entrance to the galilee, in consequence of Langley's tomb interrupting access. It is neither a doorway nor connected with Langley's chantry, which has lost much interest and completeness, nor is there an uninterruped view as stated, for the sham doors prevent it. Is this an improvement?

About the same time as the above *restoration* (?) was committed, the backs of some of the side stalls in the choir were taken out, and curious pews now project behind, completely into the side aisle, obtaining room at a very serious sacrifice of all ecclesiastical propriety. Moreover, the *Durham Advertiser*, a week or two back, stated, in a notice of the intended removal of the organ (which has now taken, or is taking place), that "The end stalls will, we understand, be thrown back, so as to make more room in the choir." What is meant by this ominous sentence I know not; but if it means that the stalls are to be advanced into the fine open central tower, there cannot be two opinions on such a barbarity.* Are these *improvements*?

As to additional room, it very seldom happens that any is really wanted; sixteen or twenty persons form a very good every-day congregation. I may add, that a goodly proportion of the Durham inhabitants are much opposed to the vandalisms going on, and agree with me in the above remarks. Is the spirit of Wyatt for ever to rest on this devoted building? Why cannot there be an architectural society for the county of Durham?

I am, Sir, &c.,

Will. Hylton Longstaffe.

Darlington, 27th March, 1847.

New Roman Catholic Church at Brecon.—A new Roman Catholic Church on a style of splendour is forthwith to be commenced in the town of Brecon, South Wales, a very large sum of money having been subscribed for that purpose by the leading families in the principality, both Protestant and Catholic. The new church will be in the Gothic style of architecture, says the *Morning Post*, and the foundation-stone will be laid in the course of the first week in May.

* I am aware certain cathedrals have the stalls in the tower as well as the choir, but they cannot for a moment be compared in effect to those with a clear lantern tower; and where there is room, let not such a bad precedent be copied.

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